



Finally, some actual news!

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THE GODFATHER AND HIS HELPERS HAVE ARRANGED A DEAL WITH COMPASS BOX WHISKIES TO PROVIDE A FEW CASES OF UNLABELED 10TH ANNIVERSARY FLAMING HEART FOR THE 3DC TO USE FOR OUR OWN 10TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

WHILE ALL BOTTLES ARE NOW SPOKEN FOR (9 CASES WORTH AT LAST COUNT), I THOUGHT THIS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION AS WE CAN FIRMLY SAY WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE WHOLE DEAL. AND I CAN ALSO SAY THIS IS LIKELY THE SINGLE MOST EXCITING THING THE 3DC HAVE PULLED OFF TO DATE. CHECK OUT THE PREVIEW WITH THE ORIGINAL COMPASS BOX LABELING:



THE ONLY DOWNSIDE HERE IS THAT WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER TO TAKE DELIVERY OF THE BOTTLES. BUT MY, OH MY, WHAT A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE THE 3 DRUNKEN CELTS' 10TH ANNIVERSARY BUT WITH A BOTTLE ESPECIALLY MADE BY COMPASS BOX FOR THEIR OWN 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE SAME YEAR AND MONTH!

OF COURSE, OUR BOTTLES WILL COME WITHOUT THE FRONT LABEL, WHERE WE WILL BE APPLYING OUR OWN CUSTOM 3DC LABELS TO COMMEMORATE THE COMBINED ANNIVERSARIES. WE'LL BE SURE TO POST PICTURES OF THOSE IN NOVEMBER ONCE WE HAVE THEM IN OUR HANDS. UNTIL THEN, LET THIS SERVER TO WHET YOUR APPETITE FOR A NEW AND AMAZING BOTTLE OF SOME TRULY SPECIAL WHISKY!

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RANDOM IMAGES



3DC TWEETS

- [@dkingswood](#) A bottle of [@sheep_dip](#) will be at the event with us! I miss the screw cap too. Was fun exposing ppl to a GOOD screw cap whisky!
02:30:27 PM October 05, 2010 from [webin](#) [reply to dkingswood](#)
- 10th anniversary tasting at Great Western War this Friday. Invite only, just like the first tasting we held. So excited for this year!
04:31:42 AM October 05, 2010 from [web](#)
- Anyone in Boston; RT [@whiskyintel](#): John Glaser...to be hosted by Federal Boxton
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02:45:22 PM September 17, 2010 from [Echofon](#)

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AS IT WERE, SEAMUS AND SIOBHAN (HERETOFORE HENCE REFERRED TO AS JASON AND JEAN) AWOKE AT A DECENT HOUR AND PREPARED FOR THEIR JOURNEY SOUTH TO THE LANDS OF SOURDOUGH AND FOG. ARRIVING AT THE PORT EARLY ENOUGH TO ENJOY THE FIRST MEAL OF THE DAY, WE SAT OURSELVES AT OUR FAVOURITE BAR WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE SECURED AREAS, AND MADE OUR ORDERS OF 2 BLOODY MARYS, EGGS HASH AND TOAST, AND A HOT PASTRAMI ON RYE. YES, DEAR READERS, THE TRIP DID INDEED START WITH JUST A HINT OF THE HEDONISM TO COME.

A QUICK 3 HOURS LATER, AND WE WERE ON THE GROUND IN SAN FRANCISCO HAVING MET UP WITH KEVIN AND MARGARET, AND RUSHING TO JOIN WITH RAZ AND MAGGIE WHOM HAD ALREADY BOARDED BART DUE TO SOME MILD CONFUSION. AS IT IS WITH ALL 3DC, LUCK PREVAILED AND WE MET UP JUST IN TIME FOR THE RIDE INTO THE CITY FROM SFO. WE MADE IT TO OUR HOTEL AND CHECKED IN WITH RELATIVE EASE, AND THEN BEGAN OUR YEARLY TRADITION OF MAKING THE IRISH BANK OUR HOME FOR THE WEEKEND; FIRST AND FOREMOST IRISH COFFEES, THEN ONTO ORDERING LUNCH!

FRIDAY SAW THE ARRIVAL OF MOST OF OUR GROUP IN VARIOUS WAVES, EACH RESULTING IN LOUD EXCLAMATIONS AND TOASTS TO FRIENDS. SUFFICE TO SAY, WE NEVER REALLY MADE IT OUT OF THE BANK FRIDAY NIGHT; AS FAR AS WE GOT WAS THE SUSHI RESTAURANT AT THE END OF THE ALLEY WHERE THE BANK IS LOCATED, WHERE WE ATE, AND DRANK, AND THEN HEADED BACK TO THE BANK FOR MORE DRINKS. YES, THIS IS INDEED TYPICAL OF EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT THE 3DC HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE WHISKIES OF THE WORLD TRIPS IN YEARS PAST. BE CAREFUL, THOUGH, IF ANY OF YOU EVER DARE TO JOIN US, AS SATURDAY MORNINGS COME VERY QUICKLY AND CAN BE QUITE PAINFUL IF YOU ARE ILL PREPARED.

THIS PARTICULAR SATURDAY MORN, I OPTED TO SLEEP IN A BIT WHILST MY LOVELY WIFE RAN AROUND THE FERRY BUILDING WITH THE SMALL GROUP OF 3DC THAT WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT FOR A LATE BREAKFAST. I LATER CAUGHT UP WITH PART OF THE GROUP AT PIER 39, AS THEY HAD WANTED TO DO SOME OF THE TOURISTY BITS OF THE CITY. A QUICK JAUNT TO FISHERMAN'S WHARF LATER, AND WE MET UP WITH THE REST OF THE EARLIER MORNING CREW AND HEADED UP TO GHIRADELLI SQUARE, AND THEN OVER TO TIERNAN'S PUB SINCE THE BUENA VISTA OPTED TO IGNORE RAZ' ATTEMPTS TO GET US A TABLE.

IN NO TIME AT ALL, WE NOTED THAT THE DAY HAD GOTTEN AWAY FROM US AND SO WE TAXIED OUR WAY BACK TO THE HOTELS TO DRESS FOR DINNER AND THE WHISKIES OF THE WORLD GRAND TASTING... AS WE ACCUMULATED IN THE LOBBY BAR OF THE HOTEL KING GEORGE, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE OUR ENTIRE GROUP WAS SIMPLY STUNNING IN THEIR EVENING ATTIRE. I MUST SAY, WE ALL DO CLEAN UP QUITE NICELY INDEED! IN SUCH AN AMAZING GROUP OF PEOPLE, I TRULY COUNT MYSELF LUCKY TO CALL EACH AND EVERY PERSON WHO CAME OUT FOR THIS TRIP A FRIEND.

YES, I AM RUSHING IN ORDER TO GET TO THE MEAT OF THIS POST, WHICH IS WHAT I KNOW YOU ALL CARE ABOUT; MY NOTES ON THE WHISKIES OF THE WORLD 2010 EXPO...

OVERALL, THE TASTING WAS ENJOYABLE FOR ME AS I FOUND A LARGE NUMBER OF NEW DRAMS WHICH I'D NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TASTE PREVIOUSLY. THAT SAID, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ISSUES RIGHT FROM THE START THAT TEMPERED ANY GLOWING REVIEW OF THE NIGHT:

FIRST AND FOREMOST WAS THE INEFFICIENCY OF HOW THE ENTRANCE TO THE TASTING HALL WAS RUN. AS VIP TICKET HOLDERS JEAN AND I WERE SLOTTED IN THE SECOND WAVE OF ENTRANCES, THE FIRST BEING FOR DRAM CLUB MEMBERS AT 5PM. OUR TICKETS INDICATED ENTRANCE AT 5:15PM, WHICH IN REALITY WAS 5:45 DUE TO THE SERIALIZED NATURE OF THE CHECK-IN DESK AND HOW TICKET HOLDERS WHO HAD NOT SIGNED THEIR TICKET WERE DEALT WITH (THE ENTIRE QUEUE WAITING AS THEY ADDRESSED AND SIGNED THEIR TICKETS). WHILE AN ANNOYANCE, THIS ALONE IS NOTHING I'D BE OVERLY IRRITATED WITH HAD THE REST OF THE NIGHT GONE WITHOUT ISSUE. SADLY, I MUST TACK THE INEFFICIENCIES OF THE BEGINNING TO THE REST OF THE EVENING IN ORDER TO PROPERLY IMPART THE IMPACT OF THE EVENING.

THE OTHER MAIN ISSUE WAS INSIDE THE MAIN HALL ITS SELF. IN YEARS PAST, THE EVENT HAS BEEN HELD ON A DOCKED PADDLE BOAT MOORED TO ONE OF THE PIERS IN THE BAY. THIS LOCATION, WHILE ADMITTEDLY A TAD ODD, HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT AS THE BOAT PROVIDED FOR 2 FULL FLOORS OF TASTING SPACE, A FULL FLOOR OF TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR THE DINING BUFFET, AND A TOP DECK FOR CIGARS AND VIEWS OVER THE BAY. THIS YEAR, THE TASTING WAS MOVED TO THE HOTEL NIKKO AND HOSTED IN A 3RD FLOOR GALA/EVENT ROOM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CHANGE IN LOCATION ALSO SEEMED

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TO BRING WITH IT A SHIFT IN THE AVAILABLE SPACE FOR THE EVENT, AS IT WAS NOW PARED DOWN TO A SINGLE ROOM WHERE THE AISLES BETWEEN TABLES WERE MORE COMPACT AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE WITH THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES PRESENT. WHILE PRIOR YEARS HAVE ALWAYS ALLOWED FOR DECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE REPS AND PARTICIPANTS, THIS YEAR THE CONVERSATIONS WERE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT DO TO THE VOLUME IN THE ROOM AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING UP TO THE TABLES FOR A POUR IN THE FIRST PLACE.

FOR MANY OF YOU WHO KNOW ME IN PERSON, YOU ARE ALL LIKELY CRINGING AT THE THOUGHT OF SEEING ME IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT, AS I AM TYPICALLY NOT COMFORTABLE IN SITUATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL CROWDS. ODDLY ENOUGH, AFTER THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES AND DOWN MY FIRST TASTE, I FOUND A RHYTHM TO THE MADNESS AND WENT WITH IT. I HAD MY FOCUS, AND WAS ABLE TO ADJUST MY EXPECTATIONS AND WORK DIFFERENTLY TO OBTAIN MY DESIRED RESULTS; WHICH IS TO SAY I PUT ON MY BIG BOY UNDERPANTS AND SUCKED IT UP. OF OUR ENTIRE GROUP, I CAN ASSURE YOU I WAS THE LAST PERSON YOU HEARD COMPLAIN ABOUT THE CROWDS... A VERY RARE OCCASION INDEED! I HAVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO THANK FOR THAT, AS IT WAS MY MISSION TO SAMPLE AND NOTE EACH DRAM I TASTED IN ORDER TO COME BACK TO YOU WITH MY THOUGHTS ON THE NIGHT; THAT GAVE ME THE MISSION I NEEDED TO GET ME THROUGH THE EVENING UNSCATHED.

WITH THAT, I PRESENT TO YOU MY ADMITTEDLY SPARSE AND SIMPLE TASTING NOTES FROM THE EVENING. WHILE I SAY THAT THE CROWDS DIDN'T BOTHER ME MUCH, THAT IS OBVIOUS FROM THE NOTES I TOOK, THAT I WAS SIMPLY KIDDING MYSELF. AS YOU WILL SEE BELOW, MY ABILITY TO ACCURATELY AND CLEARLY DEFINE THE VARIOUS WHISKIES I TASTED SUFFERED BADLY SATURDAY EVENING, AND NOT FROM AN ABUNDANCE OF ALCOHOL. RATHER MY ABILITY TO PAUSE AND REALLY FOCUS ON THE WHISKIES WAS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BY THE NOISE AND CROWDED PATHWAYS. (OK OK, THAT WAS A LONG AND VERBOSE CAVEAT TO BASICALLY SAY "I KNOW MY NOTES HERE SUCK, BUT THEY ARE ALL I HAVE, SO DEAL WITH IT... IT WASN'T MY FAULT I SWEAR!")

EACH TABLE BELOW REFLECTS A SINGLE BOTTLE FROM THE NIGHT. THE NUMBERED RATINGS ARE ON A 1-5 SCALE, 1 BEING LESS, 5 BEING MORE, AND THE LETTER GRADE IS ON A TYPICAL A-F SCALE WITH A BEING THE TOP MARK (ALL OF WHICH IS EXPLAINED IN THE FOREWORD OF THE 3 DRUNKEN CELTS (BLANK FORMS TO FILL OUT) [TASTING NOTEBOOKS AVAILABLE HERE](#)):

BOTTLE:	Tomintoul 27yr
NOSE:	IODINE, COMPLETE LACK OF OAK.
FLAVOUR:	SOFT, MILD OAK WITH A SLIGHT CHARRED NOTE FOLLOWED BY SUBTLE SPICE
FINISH:	CLEAN, VANISHES, THEN RETURNS WITH SPICE AGAIN, FINISHES WITH A BITE REMINISCENT OF A CASK STRENGTH BOTTLING.
VISCOSITY:	2
BOLDNESS:	2
LENGTH OF STORY:	2
PERSONAL TASTE:	B

BOTTLE:	Tomintoul 31yr
NOSE:	SPICE AND CARAMEL SWEETNESS
FLAVOUR:	SOFT AND CHEWY, WITH MILD OAK MOVING INTO CARAMEL
FINISH:	STARTS THE FINISH HARSHLY, BUT EVENS OUT INTO CARAMEL
VISCOSITY:	3
BOLDNESS:	3
LENGTH OF STORY:	2
PERSONAL TASTE:	B-

BOTTLE:	Suntory Hibiki 12yr
NOSE:	SPICE!
FLAVOUR:	MORE SPICE AND MOVING INTO HEAVY CARAMEL SWEETNESS
FINISH:	SHORT FINISH THAT CEASES NEARLY ABRUPTLY. SIMPLE, LACKS COMPLEXITY
VISCOSITY:	3
BOLDNESS:	4

LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	C

BOTTLE:	Eades Double Malt, Speyside
NOSE:	APRICOT AND SLIGHT IODINE
FLAVOUR:	FRUITY MOVING INTO HARD OAK
FINISH:	ALCOHOL FINISH, NOT TOO COMPLEX BUT YET STILL HAS SOME INTERESTING NOTES
VISCOSITY:	4
BOLDNESS:	4
LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	B-

BOTTLE:	Benromach "Organic"
NOSE:	STRINGENT WITH MILD IODINE HINTS
FLAVOUR:	EARTHY PEATINESS, A BIT CHALLENGING FOR MY PALETTE
FINISH:	PEAT MOVING INTO A LONG OAKY FINISH.
VISCOSITY:	5
BOLDNESS:	4
LENGTH OF STORY:	4.5
PERSONAL TASTE:	C+

BOTTLE:	Glenmorangie "Nectar D'Or"
NOSE:	ORANGE, BUT NOT CITRUSY, CARAMEL SWEETNESS
FLAVOUR:	FRUITINESS FOLLOWED BY MEDIUM OAK. GOOD, BUT PEDESTRIAN.
FINISH:	SAME AS THE NOSE, BUT FOLLOWED BY MORE OAK.
VISCOSITY:	3
BOLDNESS:	3
LENGTH OF STORY:	4
PERSONAL TASTE:	B

BOTTLE:	Sheep Dip 1990
NOSE:	SMOKE AND IODINE
FLAVOUR:	CARAMEL WITH IODINE AND SMOKE
FINISH:	REMINISCENT OF AN ARDBEG SMOKEY FINISH.
VISCOSITY:	5
BOLDNESS:	3
LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	C+

BOTTLE:	Wild Geese Irish Soldiers and Heroes, "Limited Edition"
NOSE:	SWEET WITH A MILD SPICE
FLAVOUR:	VERY- CLOYINGLY SWEET, NEARLY LIKE A BRANDY, NEARLY TASTES/FEELS LIKE THERE IS ADDED SUGAR
FINISH:	SOFT WITH LINGERING BROWN SUGAR
VISCOSITY:	2.5
BOLDNESS:	2
LENGTH OF STORY:	2
PERSONAL TASTE:	B

BOTTLE:	Compass Box Oak Cross
NOSE:	IODINE INTO OAK, OF COURSE
FLAVOUR:	CARAMEL INTO OAK AS EXPECTED
FINISH:	MILD AND SOFT OAKYNESS THAT VANISHES
VISCOSITY:	3

BOLDNESS:	3
LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	B+

BOTTLE:	Compass Box Spice Tree (2010 formulation)
NOSE:	ETHEREAL MILD NOTES OF OAK COVERED IN HINTS OF SPCE
FLAVOUR:	IODINE AND PEAT WITH A MILD HINT OF SMOKINESS
FINISH:	PEAT INTO SMOKE REMINISCENT OF A CAOL ILA AND THEN BACK INTO A SLIGHT IODINE ON THE END
VISCOSITY:	3
BOLDNESS:	3
LENGTH OF STORY:	4
PERSONAL TASTE:	B+/A-

BOTTLE:	Compass Box Hedonism
NOSE:	SPICE AND GINGER LOVE
FLAVOUR:	CARAMEL CHEWY BUT WITH A SPICY CARDAMOM NOTE
FINISH:	SWEETNESS AND LOVE ALL OVER.
VISCOSITY:	4
BOLDNESS:	3
LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	A

BOTTLE:	Bruichladdich 1998
NOSE:	IODINE AND SHERRY?
FLAVOUR:	OAK SHERRY CASK OR PORT CASK FINISH? HOLDS A SPEYSIDE SWEETNESS
FINISH:	SWEET SWEET LOVE, NOT WHAT I EXPECT FROM AN ISLAY!
VISCOSITY:	4
BOLDNESS:	4
LENGTH OF STORY:	4
PERSONAL TASTE:	A+ (TOP OF THE NIGHT)

BOTTLE:	Edradour 12yr Caledonia
NOSE:	SMOKE AND PEATINESS
FLAVOUR:	CARAMEL INTO A SOFT PEAT, DROP OF WATER BLOOMS INTO MUCH MORE OAK
FINISH:	PEAT FOLLOWED INTO SMOKE AND THEN COMPLEX OAK.
VISCOSITY:	4
BOLDNESS:	4
LENGTH OF STORY:	3.25
PERSONAL TASTE:	B

BOTTLE:	Bushmill's 21yr
NOSE:	SMOOTH SWEET IRISH
FLAVOUR:	SMALL PEATINESS THEN INTO THE EXPECTED SWEET
FINISH:	SIMPLE BUT TASTY OAK
VISCOSITY:	3
BOLDNESS:	3.5
LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	B-

BOTTLE:	Dry Fly "Washington Wheat Whiskey"
NOSE:	ODDLY SWEET, TOUGH TO PLACE
FLAVOUR:	VANILLA OAK AND GRASS, DISTINCT WHEAT NOTE
FINISH:	MILD CARAMEL AND MORE GRASS
VISCOSITY:	2
BOLDNESS:	3

LENGTH OF STORY:	2.75
PERSONAL TASTE:	B-

BOTTLE:	Dry Fly Gin
NOSE:	CITRUS AND JUNIPER
FLAVOUR:	COMPLEX BOTANICALS WITH A HINT OF APPLE
FINISH:	CLEAN AND SPICY, COMPLEX FOR A GIN
VISCOSITY:	X NONE NOTED X
BOLDNESS:	X NONE NOTED X
LENGTH OF STORY:	X NONE NOTED X
PERSONAL TASTE:	X NONE NOTED X

BOTTLE:	Bruichladdich 12yr
NOSE:	IODINE AND BRINE, EXPECTED OF A TYPICAL ISLAY
FLAVOUR:	SMOKE AND BRINE
FINISH:	MORE BRINE, BUT A SURPRISE FINISH INTO SWEETNESS
VISCOSITY:	3.5
BOLDNESS:	4
LENGTH OF STORY:	3
PERSONAL TASTE:	C+/B-

YES, MY TOTAL COUNT OF DRAMS BETWEEN 5:30PM AND 9PM WHEN JEAN AND I LEFT IS INDEED 17. THOUGH NOT QUITE SOBER WHEN I LEFT, I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU I WAS IN NO WAY DRUNK, AND IN FACT MOSEYED BACK TO OUR ROOM, SHOWERED, AND RETURNED TO THE IRISH BANK FOR MORE DRINKS TO FINISH OUT THE NIGHT AS WE ALWAYS DO.

BACK AT THE BANK, WE FINISHED OUT THE EVENING WITH ROBIN ROBINSON, THE US BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR COMPASS BOX WHISKIES, AND NEW FRIEND OF THE 3DC, SINCE JOHN WAS UNABLE TO MAKE THE EXPO THIS YEAR. REGRETTABLY, I WAS SAT IN THE CORNER AND DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT UP ROBIN AS RAZ DID, THOUGH I AM SURE QUITE THE IMPRESSION WAS MADE. I CAN ONLY HOPE JOHN HAD WARNED ROBIN OF WHAT HE MAY BE IN STORE FOR IF HE BEFRIENDED US... OTHERWISE I THINK WE MAY HAVE SCARED HIM 😊

AS ONE ROUND OF OUR GROUP FINISHED OFF AND STARTED HEADING BACK TO THE HOTELS, ANOTHER ROUND OF THE GROUP ARRIVED AND THE NIGHT CONTINUED ON WITH THE SINGING OF IRISH DRINKING TUNES, AS WE ARE SO OFTEN WONT TO DO. BY THE END OF THE NIGHT, I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE TASTING HAD BEGUN TO DWINDLE AND SHIFT INTO AN OVERALL ENJOYMENT ONCE AGAIN (ALBEIT STILL TEMPERED BY THE LOGISTIC ISSUES OF THE ACTUAL TASTING) AND THE NIGHT ENDED ON A HIGHER NOTE THAN WHEN IT HAD BEGUN. ALL IN ALL, TI WAS YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE 3DC AT WHISKIES OF THE WORLD!

SUNDAY MORNING, AS YOU'D EXPECT, CAME FAR TOO EARLY AGAIN, THOUGH THIS TIME I WAS AT LEAST AWAKE ENOUGH TO HEAD OUT TO A LATE BREAKFAST, AND WEASELED MY WAY INTO A TABLE NEXT TO RAZ, MAGGIE, CAT, AND DAVE WHO WERE JUST FINISHING UP. IT HAS GOT TO BE 3DC LUCK, BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY I COULD HAVE CHARMED THE HOSTESS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HER TO LET KEVIN, MARGARET, JENA AND I HAVE THE NEWLY EMPTIED TABLE NEXT TO OUR FRIENDS AT 10AM ON A SUNDAY MORNING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY! THE LUCK, WE HAVE IT!

NEWLY SATED, THE TWO GROUPS MADE OUR WAY OVER TO CHINA TOWN FOR MORE TOURISTY THINGS, AND ENDED UP AT A TEA SHOP, AS WE DID LAST YEAR. SEEMS THE WHOLE GROUP REALLY ENJOYED IT AND THE TEA PERKED US ALL UP AFTER BREAKFAST AND THE ACTIVITIES FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE. OF COURSE IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR US TO COMPLETELY UNDO THE GOOD FROM THE TEA, AS WE FOUND OURSELVES IN ANOTHER BAR WHILING AWAY THE TIME UNTIL MORE FRIENDS COULD MEET UP WITH US; AND WELL, WE JUST HAD TO HAVE SOME DRINKS! BY THE TIME EVERYONE MET UP WITH US, WE WERE NICELY INEBRIATED AND HEADED BACK OUTSIDE TO BRAVE THE HILLS OF CHINA TOWN ON OUR WAY TO THE IRISH BANK ONCE AGAIN...

SINCE KEVIN AND MARGARET, JEAN AND I HAD DINNER RESERVATIONS AT 6:15PM SUNDAY NIGHT, WE BAILED OUT FROM THE BANK A BIT EARLY, WENT BACK TO OUR HOTELS T CHANGE INTO NICER CLOTHES

ONCE AGAIN, AND THEN HITCHED A CAB DOWN TO THE BOULEVARD. I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE, AND EXPECTED IT TO BE GREAT, BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE ALL IN STORE FOR THAT EVENING.

WE STARTED OFF WITH A ROUND OF COCKTAILS AS WE PERUSED THE MENU... THEN ONTO A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE WHICH WE HAD INTENDED AS OUR DINNER DRINKS; THAT IS UNTIL KEVIN ASKED THE WAITRESS IF THERE WAS A TASTING MENU AVAILABLE, AND IF NOT, WOULD THE CHEFS BE UP TO MAKING ONE FOR US. (AS AN ASIDE HERE, JEAN AND I ADORE TASTING MENUS AND ORDER WHENEVER IT IS AN OPTION, BUT SADLY I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK WHEN IT WASN'T ALREADY PRESENTED AS AN OPTION... I HAVE LEARNED MY LESSON!) OUR WAITRESS LEFT TO ASK, AND RETURNED FROM THE KITCHEN WITH A VERY AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER, SO WE WERE WELL ON OUR WAY TO AN OUTSTANDING NIGHT. SHE THEN RETURNED AGAIN, HAVING REALIZED THAT WE MAY WANT WINE PAIRINGS WITH THE TASTING MENU, TO WHICH WE HEARTILY REPLIED NEARLY IN UNISON WITH A RESOUNDING YES!

OVER THE NEXT 4 HOURS WE WERE TREATED TO 6 COURSES (AND PAIRED WINES) LOOSELY BUILT AROUND THEIR CURRENT MENU OFFERINGS. FROM MY RECOLLECTION THIS INCLUDED LAMB, DUCK, SCALLOPS, FOIE GRAS, VARIOUS CHEESES, AND A MULTITUDE OF OTHER ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE ANNALS OF TIME AND INEBRIATION; AS IT WAS AN OFF- MENU TASTING, I HAVE NO PRINTED MENU TO ASSIST MY MEMORY OF THE DINNER HERE. WHAT I CAN TELL YOU ALL, IS THAT EACH COURSE WAS AMAZINGLY CRAFTED AND PRESENTED, AND THE SOMMELIER PAIRED THE WINES WITH A LEVEL OF DEFT SKILL AND THOUGHT THAT WE FOUND OURSELVES COMMENTING ON EACH PRESENTATION AS TO HOW WE'D NEVER HAVE CHOSEN THOSE PARTICULAR WINES BUT THAT THEY WORKED SO VERY WELL WHEN PAIRED WITH THE VARIOUS COURSES, THE MARK OF A TRULY GREAT SOMMELIER! FINISHING OFF DINNER WITH SOME COFFEE AND A SINGLE SCOTCH BETWEEN US, YOU COULDN'T WIPE THE GLUTTONOUS AND HEDONISTIC SMILES FROM OUR FACES. SITTING BACK AT THE TABLE, IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THIS DINNER HAD SKYROCKETED ITS WAY UP INTO THE TOP 5 DINNERS I HAVE EVER HAD... AND BELIEVE YOU ME, THAT TOP 5 SPOT IS QUITE CROWDED NOWADAYS!

AFTER DINNER WE DROPPED JEAN OFF AT THE HOTEL WHERE WE MET UP WITH RAZ AND MAGGIE, AND HEADED OVER TO FOLEY'S TO FINISH OUT THE NIGHT WITH A FEW MORE DRINKS, AS NONE OF US SEEMED IN THE MOOD TO TURN IN YET; A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF PUSHING OUT THE ENJOYMENT OF THE WEEKEND AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BEFORE RETURNING BACK TO REAL LIFE THE NEXT DAY.

MONDAY MORNING CAME WITHOUT MUCH ISSUE, THOUGH WE WERE RUNNING A BIT BEHIND... THE HANGOVERS REALLY DIDN'T HIT US UNTIL WE WERE SITTING IN THE TERMINAL AT SFO WHERE IT WAS UNREASONABLY WARM FOR BOTH JEAN AND ME. MID-FLIGHT, WE HIT A BIG POCKET OF TURBULENCE WHICH REALLY PUT THOSE HANGOVERS TO THE TEST, BUT LUCKILY IT WAS SHORT LIVED, AND BY THE TIME WE WERE ON THE GROUND IN PDX AND MORE IMPORTANTLY IN THE COOL AIR, ALL WAS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD AGAIN.

LOOKING BACK ON THE TRIP WITH JUST OVER A WEEK IN BETWEEN NOW, I ONCE AGAIN AM FINDING MYSELF WITH FOND MEMORIES OF THE TASTING, AND THE SURROUNDING WEEKEND AS A WHOLE. WHILE THIS RECENT TRIP HAD A DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT FEEL TO IT THAN YEARS PAST, IT STILL RETAINED THE OVERALL IMPRESSION THAT I HAVE COME TO LOVE AND CRAVE YEAR AFTER YEAR: TRUE FRIENDS, JOINING TOGETHER FROM FAR AND WIDE, WITH ONE GOAL... TO ENJOY THEMSELVES TO THE FULLEST. TO THAT END, WE SUCCEEDED MY FRIENDS, AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT. AS WE SAY WHEN WE ARE INDUCTING NEW MEMBERS: "THERE ARE NO BENEFITS, ONLY CONSEQUENCES...", BUT I AM HERE TO TELL YOU, THERE REALLY ARE BENEFITS; I AM FAR RICHER FOR BEING ABLE TO CALL YOU ALL MY FRIENDS! THAT IS EXACTLY WHY RAZ STARTED THIS ODD LITTLE GROUPING OF PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE MAY TELL YOU 😊 IT ISN'T THE WHISKIES THAT KEEP US GOING, IT IS INDEED THE FRIENDSHIPS WE'VE BUILT BECAUSE OF THEM! THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

-SEAMUS/JASON

P.S. PHOTOS SOON TO BE UPLOADED TO THE PHOTO PAGE HERE ONCE I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE AND ORGANIZE, ETC.

💬 One response so far

Compass Box Whisky Co. has a new Facebook fan page!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Compass-Box-Whisky/310473912283?ref=ts>

As you may know, the 3 Drunken Celts have a close affinity for John Glaser and his company, Compass Box. We met nearly 4 years ago now, and have been supporters of his efforts... and by supporters, I mean we not only drink his blends, but preach the quality of Compass Box to any and all who will listen! So, when given the opportunity, you know we will do what we can to spread the word... so go check out their [Facebook Fan Page](#) now!

Sadly, it seems John won't be at Whiskies of the World this year. Luckily, in his stead the brand ambassador, Robin Robinson, will be representing the team. I, for one, am looking forward to meeting Robin (as we have spoken via Facebook messages once or twice) and toasting a tipple to all who couldn't make the event.

If you will be attending [any of the events](#) where Compass Box is making appearances, be sure to stop by and introduce yourselves to Robin (or John Glaser, or Chris Maybin, or any others representing the brand); let them know how you heard of them and that the 3 Drunken Celts say hello... after all, there are more than just 3 of us!

 One response so far

As we end the year, a little time for reflection

Dec
30
2009

Published by [Raz](#) under [Uncategorized](#)

2009 was a pretty good year for the 3DC despite the down turn in the economy. (Not trying to make any money from something sure takes the pressure off...) We saw more members made and great times had by most. Tastings were thrown hither and thither including a collegiums private homes and wars. Well done all. We've been using a new tool to plan for the WoWE trip next year; Google Wave. It's proving quite useful and helpful in organizing and planning things. I started my Elizabethan Irish Usquabetha personal project, which reminds me I got to pick that stick back up soon. The world of whiskies at large is still expanding. I just got word of another new Irish coming to market in the US; Dingle. We'll have to wait and see what they come up with for us Yanks. Many new scotches have hit the shelves and a few have faded away as is the norm of the past decade so far.

Looking forward, we'll have to see what this last year of the decade holds for us and with luck we'll get a better idea of that at WoWE coming up in March. WoWE 2009 was a spectacle to be sure. We had very strong numbers and we all learned quite a bit on the boat and off despite the poor distiller turn out due to the economic down turn. Time spent with John Glasser is not to be missed. WoWE has been sold to new blood so we'll have to give them a chance this time around and see what they have in plan for the future of the event. It is not on the boat this year and is again just a one day event. Our hotel of choice is the King George Hotel just a block or two from the event itself. Estrella is coming up just before the WoWE and I hope all that are going are going to remember the funny. I know our member out here in CaId are given some of the plans I've been hearing about. I haven't been made privy to any plans for anEstrella tasting this year as I'm unable to attend. The year following however I'm already planning to attend. We simply must set something up for 2011 Estrella. Plans for GWW are in development. Adrian has some scheme or other I'm sure he'll be making you all aware of the details down the road so keep tuned. That's if for me save to say "Thanks for all the funny this year."

 No responses yet

Need help buying a whisky lover a

Dec

Christmas gift?

15
2009

Published by [admin](#) under [Miscellany](#)

YES, THIS IS A RE-RUN OF CONTENT FROM 2007, BUT IT STILL HOLDS TRUE TODAY. IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR AROUND THIS TIME, WE ARE ALL ASKED ABOUT OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOD WHISKIES AS GIFTS. TO THAT END, WE'VE WRITTEN UP SOME SUGGESTIONS AT THE LINKS BELOW.

TAKE A GANDER AT OUR PREVIOUS TWO POSTS ON CHRISTMAS GIFTING FOR THE WHISKIES AFICIONADO:



[Seamus' Opinionated Guide to buying Whiskies as Gifts](#)



[Raz' non-Whisky Whiskies Gifts](#)

OF COURSE THESE ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS.... WE WELCOME YOU TO REGISTER, LOGIN, AND COMMENT WITH YOUR OWN SUGGESTIONS AS WE MOVE CLOSER INTO THE SEASON OF GIFTS AND PARTIES ALIKE!

 No responses yet

Whiskies of the World 2010 attendance planning is underway!

Dec
08
2009

Published by [admin](#) under [WotW](#)

THE 3DC ARE USING [GOOGLEWAVE](#) TO COORDINATE OUR PLANNING FOR ATTENDING THE 2010 [WHISKIES OF THE WORLD](#) EVENT. IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND AND JOIN IN ON THIS PLANNING, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR AN INVITE. WE WILL ALSO BE COLLABORATING ON EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AROUND THE EVENT, TICKETS, AND TRAVEL, SO DON'T MISS OUT!

RESERVATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE INDIVIDUALLY AT THE [KING GEORGE HOTEL](#), HOWEVER WE ARE ALSO IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GROUP SALES COORDINATOR TO DETERMINE IF WE CAN CONDENSE OUR RESERVATIONS INTO A MORE COMPACT AREA AND AT A BETTER PRICING. OUR RECOMMENDATION PRESENTLY, IS TO BOOK YOUR ROOM ON YOUR OWN, BUT MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN [CONTACT WITH RAZ/RANDY](#) TO ENSURE YOU ARE INCLUDED IN ANY GROUP RATE/COORDINATION WHICH MAY COME ABOUT.

ADDITIONALLY, NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO NOT ONLY MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AT REDUCED RATES, BUT TO BUY YOUR TICKETS TO [WotW](#) AT REDUCED RATES AS WELL! I EXPECT TO SEE TICKET PRICES CLIMB AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, SO WHY NOT MAKE THE TICKETS PART OF A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE, OR TREAT YOURSELF (YOU KNOW YOU DESERVE IT)!

 No responses yet

Three Sheets investigates Kiwi whiskies

Dec
04
2009

Published by [admin](#) under [Miscellany](#)

ZANE GOES TO NEW ZEALAND AND SAMPLES SOME LOCALLY DISTILLED AND BOTTLED WHISKIES:

[HTTP://WWW.FANCAST.COM/TV/THREE-SHEETS/96540/1339974453/Kwi-Scotch-Whisky/VIDEOS](http://www.fancast.com/tv/THREE-SHEETS/96540/1339974453/Kwi-Scotch-Whisky/VIDEOS)

SOME INTERESTING TIDBITS INCLUDE AN HISTORIC RECREATION OF A COPPER HOME STILL (OH, IF ONLY THE 3DC CAN SETUP OUR OWN!). IT IS A SHORT 3 MINUTE CLIP, BUT FUN NONE-THE-LESS.

THE FULL 24 MINUTE EPISODE (ORIGINAL AIR DATE 7/20/09)CAN BE FOUND HERE:

[HTTP://WWW.FANCAST.COM/TV/THREE-SHEETS/96540/1194652684/New-Zealand/VIDEOS](http://www.fancast.com/tv/THREE-SHEETS/96540/1194652684/New-Zealand/VIDEOS)

-SEAMUS/JASON

 No responses yet

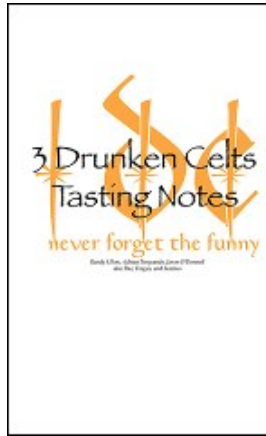
The 3 Drunken Celts Tasting Notebook!

Dec
03

Published by [Raz](#) under [3DC News](#) [Miscellany](#)

OK... So we've made some rather lofty claims on our web site. Chief amongst these is "The 3 Drunken Celts are set to change all that you know about whiskies..." Well here's the start of that:

The 3 Drunken Celts Whiskey Tasting Notebook!



sample page

You've seen us using them at *Whiskies of the World* in San Francisco, and other tasting events we attend, now get your own so you won't forget what you've tasted and more importantly, what you thought of the taste! Simply said, these are essentially blank notebooks designed to guide tasters through their own note-taking while tasting various whiskies. The notebooks include free-text sections as well as basic rating scales to capture your own reactions to the whiskies you are tasting.

There is more information about this new offering below... I've a personal beef with tasting notes and ratings as are currently done by the whiskey world at large; eg: Would I like a given "98" rated whiskey? Would it be good on a hot summer afternoon? Is it thick and warm or thin and refreshing? Is it complex or curt in its story? The "98" really doesn't mean anything to you unless you were the one who tasted the dram or at least know what scores in each of the individual categories the reviewer has used that then where added up to the 98. I'm pretty sure we, the 3DC, can do a damn site better than that. I find that some whiskies that rate highly I don't like while others that do not rate so highly, by the experts at least, are rather enjoyable and visa versa on both these statements. On the most rudimentary level what I'd like to know about a bottle of whiskey I've never had is how thick the dram is, how strong the taste is, how long the story is. I find that I prefer a stronger, thicker dram in the winter and a lighter more complex one in the summer so knowing the viscosity, boldness and length of story goes a long way towards picking out a dram I'm not familiar with. Additionally, these are categories that can be reviewed with far less subjectively. We'll use a 1-5 scale. For example, if it drinks like a 10W40 motor oil, as far as viscosity is concerned, you'd give it a 5 and if it was thin as water you'd give it a 1. The same scale will be used for boldness and length of story.

From there, more traditional tasting notes regarding descriptive verbiage of the nose, flavor and finish can come into play when deciding between drams I already know to be appropriate to my mood's general requirements at the time. I should be noted that the evaluations, 1-5, in the categories above are not indicative of quality or approval. A 1 is no better than a 5, just an empirical take on the dram's properties. This is what makes our system drastically different from the status quo as well as makes the future database a much more useful tool.

The last category, and notably the least important, is an indication of how much we liked the dram based on own personal taste with an A-F scale. This is simply intended to be a reference or reminder of our overall impression of the dram as time passes and also a means for others to get to know our individual preferences while reviewing the database.

For example, Seamus really likes the Balvenie 21, and so does Fergus, so Fergus looking over Seamus' favorable review of the Edradour 10 cask strength would lend Fergus to

THINK HE MAY WELL WANT TO TRY IT TOO. SIMPLE HUH?

TO THIS END WE HAVE INTRODUCED A 3DC TASTING NOTEPAD ON OUR [Café Press shop page](#).

WE ARE ALSO, IN TIME, GOING TO BE ABLE TO START LOGGING THESE TASTING NOTES ONTO OUR WEB SITE FOR OTHERS TO REFERENCE. THE IDEA HERE IS THAT YOU CAN TRY THINGS THAT OTHERS HAVE TRIED AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER'S TASTES AND PREFERENCES. ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THE OTHERS PREFERENCES YOU MAY BE INCLINED TO TRY SOMETHING YOU'D NOT NORMALLY HAVE TRIED SIMPLY BECAUSE SOMEONE WITH SIMILAR TASTES AS YOUR OWN RATED IT FAVORABLY REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE LATE M. JACKSON OR J. MURRAY HAS SAID ABOUT THE DRAM. NOT THAT THEY DON'T KNOW THEIR BUSINESS. AS FERGUS AND SEAMUS WILL TELL YOU, I'VE NOTHING BUT THE HIGHEST ADMIRATION FOR JIM BUT HIS TASTES HAVE DEVELOPED FAR BEYOND MY OWN AND HIS SOPHISTICATION OF PALLET IS ALSO WELL OUT OF MY CURRENT PERSONAL REACH. HE HAS HIGHLY RATED THINGS I DON'T CARE FOR AND HAS PANNED SOME OF MY FAVORITE DRAMS AS WELL SO AS MUCH AS I LIKE THE MAN, I CAN'T RELY ON HIS RATINGS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT I'M GOING TO LIKE WHAT'S IN THE BOTTLE IN FRONT OF ME. I JUST KNOW IF JIM LIKED IT.

I URGE YOU TO GIVE OUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT IN CHANGING THE WHISKEY WORLD A TRY. WE'VE PUT A [PDF copy of one of the pages](#) UP IN THE [DOWNLOADS PAGE](#) IF YOU'D LIKE TO **"try before you buy"**.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK AND FEEL FREE TO POST A VERSION OF YOUR TASTING NOTES TO THE LIST FOR A WHILE SO WE CAN SEE WHAT YOU THINK OF THE DRAMS YOU ARE TRYING.

Yis, RAZ/RANDY

 One response so far

The 3DC on Twitter

Published by [Seamus](#) under [3DC News](#)

Jul
17
2009

YES, THE 3DC HAVE FINALLY EMBRACED SOCIAL MEDIA 2.0 AND HAVE CREATED A TWITTER STREAM. FOLLOW OUR REAL-TIME TASTING NOTES AS THEY HAPPEN AT:

<http://twitter.com/3drunkencelts>

FOR THOSE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF TWITTER: IT IS A WEBSITE WHICH ALLOWS USERS TO UPDATE THEIR CURRENT STATUS WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING RIGHT NOW, IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS. THE 3DC WILL BE UTILIZING THIS SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLET TO POST TASTING NOTES ON VARIOUS DRAMS, LINKS TO NEW BLOGS AND NEWS ARTICLES, AND OTHER RANDOM WHISKIES RELATED CONTENT.

YOU CAN ALSO JOIN IN THE FUN IF YOU ARE ON TWITTER BY FOLLOWING US AND ENTERING YOUR OWN CONTENT STREAM RELATED TO THE 3DC BY USING THE HASHTAG: #3DC

 No responses yet

Eoin's Ode to Friar John Cor

Published by [admin](#) under [3DC News, Miscellany](#)

Jun
04
2009

With a nod to the Bard:

THIS DAY IS CALLED THE REVERENCE OF FRIAR JOHN:
HE THAT OUTLIVES THIS DAY, AND COMES DRUNK HOME,
WILL STUMBLE A-TIPTOE WHEN THE DAY IS NAMED,
AND ROUSE HIM AT THE NAME OF FRIAR JOHN.
HE THAT SHALL SEE THIS DAY AND DRINK T'OLD AGE,
WILL YEARLY ON THE VIGIL TOAST HIS NEIGHBOURS,
AND SAY "TO-MORROW IS FRIAR JOHN'S REVERENCE REVEL":
THEN WILL HE STRIP HIS SLEEVE AND SHOW HIS SCARS
AND SAY "THESE WOUNDS I HAD ON FRIAR JOHN'S DAY."
DRUNK MEN FORGET: YET ALL SHALL BE FORGOT,

BUT HE'LL REMEMBER WITH ADVANTAGES
WHAT DRINKS HE DID THAT DAY. THEN SHALL OUR NAMES,
FAMILIAR IN HIS MOUTH AS HOUSEHOLD WORDS
RAZ THE REAVER, SEAMUS AND FERGUS,
FAIR SIOBHAN AND SEAN, ODRAN AND GULLIVER,
BE IN THEIR FLOWING CUPS FRESHLY REMEMBERED.
THIS STORY SHALL THE GOOD CELTS TEACH THEIR SONS;
AND JON JOHN SHALL NE'ER GO BY,
FROM THIS DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD,
BUT WE IN IT SHALL BE REMEMBERED;
WE FEW, WE INEBRIATED HAPPY FEW, WE BAND OF DRUNKEN BROTHERS;
FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS WHISKEY WITH ME
SHALL BE MY BROTHER; BE HE NE'ER SO VILE,
THIS DAY SHALL GENTLE HIS CONDITION:
AND GENTLEMEN IN IRELAND NOW ABED
SHALL THINK THEMSELVES ACCURSED THEY WERE NOT HERE,
AND HOLD THEIR MANHOODS CHEAP WHILES ANY SPEAKS
THAT DRANK WITH US UPON FRIAR JOHN'S REVERENCE REVEL DAY.

Eoin

 No responses yet

[Next »](#)